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June 7, 2013

By electronic mail to armitage.thomas@epa.gov

Dr. Thomas Armitage
Designated Federal Officer
SAB Staff Office

Re: Comments on List of Candidates for Science Advisory Board Panel to Review EPA's Draft Science Synthesis Report on the Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters

Dear Dr. Armitage:

On behalf of members of the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA), I submit the following comments on the List of Candidates posted on the Science Advisory Board's ("SAB") website to be considered for the SAB Panel to review EPA's Draft Science Synthesis Report on the Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters. ARA is a not-for profit trade association that represents America's agricultural retailers and distributors. Our members provide goods and services to farmers and ranchers in all 50 states. We have a specific interest in this important SAB and the review of this EPA report as it will impact all segments of the nation's agricultural industry and their rural communities.

ARA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the members of this very important panel. We urge the SAB to select experts with significant technical and in-the-field experience. The Draft Report has wide ranging implications for ARA members and many other sectors of our nation's economy, including determining how the agencies will identify waters to be protected under the Clean Water Act. Moreover, EPA has indicated that it will rely on the Draft Report, once finalized, in the field. Therefore, it is of critical importance that the panel be well positioned to evaluate the impact of the conclusions and analysis contained in the Draft Report as they will play out on the ground.

ARA recommends the following individuals for selection on the SAB panel:

- (1) Dr. Michael Josselyn
- (2) Mr. Frank Corkhill
- (3) Mr. Tony Bomkamp
- (4) Mr. Ben Parkhurst

(5) Mr. Mark Murphy

(6) Mr. Kenneth Passarella

(7) Mr. Robert Pierce

Thank you for considering these comments. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard D. Gupton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Gupton
Sr. Vice President, Public Policy & Counsel